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U.S. Appl. No. 10/684,623
Amendment Dated May 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 10, 2004
Docket No. 5853-319

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A system for identifying a presence of a creature disposed in a body of water comprising:

a passive transducer for receiving at least one vibrational wave emanating from said creature and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave; and

a signal processor for processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of a particular type of creature which is disposed in the body of water; and:

an indicator which communicates at least one warning signal responsive to a detection of said creature, wherein said indicator is mounted above a water line of a structure secured to the bottom of the body of water.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein said indicator is selected from the group consisting of a visual indicator, an audio transducer, and a mechanical vibration device.

5. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying a presence of a creature disposed in water comprising:

a transducer for receiving at least one vibrational wave and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave;

a signal processor for processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of a particular type of creature which is disposed in water, and

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an indicator which communicates at least one warning signal responsive to a detection of said creature. The system of claim 3, wherein said indicator is a mechanical device operatively connected to a control system of a watercraft.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said signal processor comprises at least one counter, said counter measuring a number of creature detection occurrences.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said signal processor comprises at least one counter, said counter measuring a number of false creature identification occurrences.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a snap rejection module, said snap rejection module rejecting vibrational waves having a duration less than a predetermined value.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said signal processor detects a harmonic frequency content of said signal.
11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said signal processor measures an amplitude of at least one harmonic frequency.
12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said signal processor detects a maximum harmonic frequency.
13. (Currently Amended) A watercraft comprising:
a system for identifying a presence of a creature manatee disposed in water, said system comprising:

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a transducer for receiving at least one vibrational wave and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave; and

a signal processor for processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of said manatee a particular type of creature which is disposed in water.

14. (Currently Amended) A buoy comprising:

a system for identifying a presence of a manatee creature disposed in water, said system comprising:

a passive transducer for receiving at least one vibrational wave emanating from said manatee and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave; and

a signal processor for processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of said manatee a particular type of creature which is disposed in water; and

an indicator which communicates at least one warning signal responsive to a detection of said creature.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a presence of a manatee creature disposed in water comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one vibrational wave and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave; and

processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of said manatee a particular type of creature which is disposed in water; and

providing a warning responsive to a detection of said manatee.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15+6, wherein said step of communicating at least one warning signal comprises at least one step selected from the group

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consisting of providing a visual indicator, providing an audio signal, and providing a vibrational signal.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a presence of a creature disposed in water comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one vibrational wave and generating at least one transformed signal responsive to said vibrational wave;

processing said transformed signal to indicate a presence of a particular type of creature which is disposed in water; and

The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of automatically controlling at least one operational parameter of a watercraft responsive to a detection of the creature.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of measuring a number of creature detection occurrences.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of measuring a number of false creature identification occurrences.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of rejecting signals associated with vibrational waves having a duration less than a predetermined value.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said receiving at least one vibrational wave step comprises receiving a sound created by at least one of a vocalization, a translational movement in water, a slapping of water, and a clicking.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of detecting a harmonic frequency content of the signal.

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24. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of measuring an amplitude of at least one harmonic frequency.
25. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said processing step further comprises the step of detecting a maximum harmonic frequency.
26. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the creature is a manatee.
27. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the structure is a buoy.
28. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the structure is a sign pole.